

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LEGAL SERVICES
CORPORATION OF DELAWARE, INC., IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED PRIVATE
ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT WITH LSC-FUNDED PROGRAMS**

Whereas, the Legal Services Corporation has long recognized that the overarching values of private attorney involvement to LSC-funded programs are increased access, increased human and capital resources, and increased *pro bono* commitment; and

Whereas, at its April 2007 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation adopted Resolution 2007-003 supporting and encouraging private attorney involvement and urging governing boards of LSC-funded programs to collaborate with other organizations to effectively engage lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons; and

Whereas, the LSC Board of Directors resolution builds upon the following national LSC initiatives:

- The October 2005 LSC report, *Documenting the Justice Gap in America: The Current Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans*, which found that 50 percent of the potential clients requesting assistance from an LSC grantee were turned away for lack of resources on the part of the program;
- The *LSC Strategic Directions 2006-2010*, which calls upon LSC to increase public awareness of and support for legal services to low-income persons in order to respond appropriately to more of their legal needs;
- The *LSC Performance Criteria*, which consider, in evaluating a program's legal representation and other activities intended to benefit the low-income population in its service area, whether that program effectively integrates private attorneys into its work in order to supplement the amount and effectiveness of its representation and other services;
- The Provision for the Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the LSC Board of Directors 2006 meetings, which highlighted the potential, opportunities and challenges of private attorney involvement and determined ways in which this critical resource can be used more effectively by LSC-funded programs as a means to help close the justice gap;
- The unanimous adoption in January 2007 by LSC Board of Directors of a strategic work plan entitled *Action Plan for Private Attorney Involvement: Help Close the Justice Gap, Unleash the Power of Pro Bono*, which highlights the benefits of engaging private attorneys to help represent clients of LSC-funded programs and describes ways in which the LSC Board and staff will work to expand private attorney involvement.
- The American Bar Association's Model Rule .6.1 and similar state bar rules note the professional responsibility of every lawyer to provide *pro bono* legal assistance to persons of limited means;

Whereas, in Delaware, we recognize the enormous unmet civil legal needs of the indigent throughout our state and the commitment of the private Bar to assist us and the other legal services providers in providing access to justice for such individuals; and

Whereas, LSCD has since its inception worked closely with the private bar, and recognizes and values its relationship with the private bar, in a variety of contexts, including the DSBA Standing Committee on the Provision of Legal Services to Low Income People, the Pro Se Litigation Committee, and the Combined Campaign for Justice; and

Whereas, the Delaware Bench and Bar, and the legal services community have long worked together to establish a pro bono component, and a pro bono commitment from the private bar, with the primary responsibility for pro bono recruitment and placement being with Delaware Volunteer Legal Services,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, Inc, (LSCD) in an effort to help close the justice gap in Delaware, supports and encourages the continuation of private attorney involvement with Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, Inc, (LSCD) and the other legal services providers in the State of Delaware, and will endeavor to, within the context of the unique organization and culture of the Delaware Bar:

- Collaborate with other organizations and entities in Delaware, consistent with available resources, to develop and facilitate educational efforts that demonstrate the extent of the unmet civil legal need and encourage collective responsibility within our service area by both public and private entities to help meet this unmet civil legal need;
- Continue our work with other organizations and entities in Delaware to develop effective strategies for engaging lawyers in *pro bono* representation and other services that benefit low-income persons;
- Continue the work that has been on-going for many years in Delaware, with collaborations of the Bench, Bar, all of the legal services providers in the State of Delaware, which have included in that collaboration organizations and entities such as the DSBA,, law firms and corporate law departments, law schools and clinics and state and federal courts; and
- Continue the work that has been on-going in Delaware to develop strategies that encourage *pro bono*, including creative recruitment methods and delivery models, attorney practice and continuing legal education rules, and training, mentoring, support, and recognition of volunteers, by the Bar and appropriate legal services providers.

Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Directors of LSCD will promote, support and encourage private attorney involvement initiatives by publicizing and recognizing private attorney involvement in the work of LSCD and by continuing the collaboration with state organizations to create opportunities for such publicity and recognition.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, Inc, (LSCD) on April 14, 2008.